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Vol: 2

July, 1940

No. 1

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Henry G. Knight delivered an address on "A New Research Attack on the Cotton Problem," at the meeting of the International Cotton Congress held at Waco, Texas, on June 29. Dr. Knight explained the reasons underlying the selection of the various fields of research to be undertaken by the four Regional Research Laboratories and stated that the method of attack to find new and wider markets for farm commodities will include fundamental research to learn new scientific facts which may be practically applied; work to control the quality of a commodity and lower the cost of manufacture; and the discovery and development of methods for processing or combining raw materials to produce useful products. He illustrated this three-way method of attack by explaining the program to be undertaken by the Southern Regional Laboratory on cotton lint. This program includes fundamental research on fiber properties and structures, since the usefulness of cotton is directly dependent upon its physical and chemical properties and structure; development of new and improved cotton processing machinery designed to improve the quality and lower the cost of cotton products; and development and application of chemical finishes which will enhance the value of cotton products. Each line of work will be closely coordinated with the others, thereby contributing its part in discovering new and increased outlets for cotton lint.

On July 11 and 12 S. H. McCrory conferred with Chas. A. Bennett at Leland, Mississippi, regarding the Bureau's cotton ginning investigations.

Bureau Memorandum No. 168, dated July 19, 1940, states:

Effective July 1, 1940, the activities of the former Carbohydrate Research Division and the former Food Research Division of the Bureau, with the exception of the enzyme research investigations, have been consolidated. The new division will be known as the "Agricultural Chemical Research Division." Dr. H. S. Paine, who

for many years has been Chief of the Carbohydrate Research Division, has been designated as Chief of the new Agricultural Chemical Research Division. Mr. R. S. Hollingshead, who has served as Assistant Chief of the Food Research Division since October 2, 1935, will serve in the same capacity in the new division.

In bringing these two divisions together under a single leader-ship, there will be opportunity for coordination of effort and greater effectiveness in the broad field of food and related research. To the new division there will also be added the Chemical Weed Eradication Investigations and the Hemicellulose Investigations from the former Industrial Farm Products Research Division, as well also as the investigations on the effect of gaseous contaminants upon the composition of plants, which work had also been previously carried on in the Industrial Farm Products Research Division.

Effective July 1, 1940, an independent laboratory for the prosecution of research in the field of enzymes has been established. This laboratory will report directly to the Chief of Bureau. Dr. A.K. Balls, who has recently been designated as consultant and adviser to the Chief of Bureau in this specialized field of research and, who in addition, serves as consultant to Chiefs of other Bureaus, Directors of Experiment Stations, and Agricultural Schools, in this branch of chemical science, will have immediate responsibility for this laboratory which will be known as the "Enzyme Research Laboratory".

The appropriation act for the Department of Agriculture for the current fiscal year has passed Congress and been signed by the President. It carries a total of \$905,325 for this Bureau, exclusive of the Regional Research Laboratories. The appropriation for the Laboratories is \$3,000,000. In addition to the above the Bureau will receive almost a quarter million dollars for the continuation of the Bankhead-Jones projects.

In decision dated June 7, 1940, the Comptroller
General held that it was no longer necessary that an
automobile be personally owned before milage could be
allowed for its use while traveling on official business.

This change is due to a recent Act of Congress
amending the previous Act by substituting the words
"a privately owned" for the words "his own" wherever
they appear therein. Written authorization, however,
must be obtained in advance of travel, as required in
the past.

Reference is also made to Budget and Finance: Circular No. 194, dated June 19, 1940, giving additional information regarding same.

* * *

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL RESEARCH

E. K. Ventre and H. C. Henry went to Meridian, Miss., the first part of July for work in connection with the operation of the sorgo sirup and sugar pilot plant this season. Operation will continue until about October 1. Mr. Ventre is in charge of the plant and is assisted by S. Byall, H. C. Henry, and J. L. Catlett.

The 1940 Beet Sugar Research Report of the Division was mailed July 1 to executive and operating personnel in the beet sugar industry throughout the United States. This report, which has been issued annually for several years, represents cooperation with all beet sugar factories and all associations of sugar beet growers in the United States.

H. S. Paine visited the field stations at Laurel, Miss., Meridian, Miss., Bogalusa, La., and Auburn, Ala., the latter part of July. At Laurel, Miss., a conference was held July 24 with Dr. Clarence Dorman, Director, Mississippi Experiment Station, E. H. White, Director, Mississippi Extension Service, R. D. Lambert, Tennessee Valley Authority, R. B. Gray, R. T. Balch, W. O. Gordon, John W. Randolph, and P. R. Dawson, of this Bureau, and W. R. Richee, Manager, Laurel Starch Plant. Discussions were conducted relative to cooperation by this Bureau, the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, the Mississippi Extension Service, Sweet Potato Growers, Inc., and the Tennessee Valley Authority, relative to various phases of research on sweetpotatoes, including use of waste wood (in connection with the "woodlot program") for dehydration of sweetpotatoes on the farm for use in livestock feeding and in starch manufacture. A demonstration of improved methods will be made in cooperation with Lee Graves, a local farmer, who lives near Laurel. Mr. Graves is to follow such forest practices as are recommended, grow sweetpotatoes by low-cost methods, dehydrate the sweetpotatoes, make hay or silage of the vines, and feed livestock, as directed. The Mississippi Experiment Station and Extension Service are to survey and mark the timber in Mr. Graves' 65-acre wood lot, conduct research on improved methods of sweetpotato production, render assistance in devising methods of production of hay and silage from sweetpotato vines, and supervise Mr. Graves' feeding experiments. The T.V.A. is to furnish equipment for clearing Mr. Graves' wood lot of waste wood, furnish gas producers: for all engines used in producing, harvesting, and processing sweetpotatoes, develop and construct an automatic furnace for operation of the dryer, and cooperate in the design and construction of a dehydration unit which can be used for sweetpotatoes, hay, and wood chips. This Division and the Farm Mechanical Equipment Division are to continue sweetpotato harvesting investigations, cooperate in the design and construction of a dehydration unit, furnish required equipment for processing potatoes, furnish required silage equipment, and supervise and conduct investigations in production of sweetpotato "meal".

Among recent visitors to the Division were the following:

Dr. Karl Brandt, Food Research Institute, Stanford University, Calif.; Prof. Y. Inouye, Kyoto Imperial University, Japan; Salvador B. Oliveros, Manila, Philippines; R. A. Ybarra, Caracas, Venezuela; Dr. Cesar D. Andrade, Guayaquil, Ecuador; Dean R. M. Ramos, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico; Mr. W. Haartman, Lima, Peru; A. Wagg, Dominican Settlement Representative; Dr. H.I. Cole, formerly with the League of Nations, Leprosy Institute, Rio Janeiro, Brazil; Axel H. Oxholm, Managing Director, Pacific Coast Industries, Tacoma, Wash.; E. C. Freeland, Industrial Engineer, W. R. Grace Co., New York City; Harold L. Kelly, Forest Glen, Md.; Col. William E. Persons, Director, Department of Corrections and Institutions, State of Alabama, Montgomery, Ala.; Eric G. Piper, Bird Machine Co., South Walpole, Mass.

R. T. Balch left Laurel, Miss., the latter part of July for the Houma, La., station where he will be occupied with cane sugar investigations for several months.

Because of the uncertainty regarding the transportation situation and other factors involved in continuation of the importation of cassava starch from the East Indies, many inquiries have been received recently from domestic users of this starch relative to the probable supply of sweetpotato starch during the next season. Extensive tests have shown that sweetpotato starch can be used very satisfactority for all purposes for which cassava starch is now employed.

Arrangements are being made for setting up a dehydration pilot plant at a suitable location in the tung belt for the purpose of conducting an investigation this season on the drying of tung fruit. If drying can be accomplished at satisfactory cost, it would have several advantages, including better control of moisture content, reduction in deterioration loss, conservation of storage space, and reduction in transportation cost to the oil mill which, in turn, would make it possible to operate oil mills in larger units, with probable reduction in processing cost.

An interesting visitor to the Division during the latter part of June was Mrs. M.C.S. Reyes, a Home Economics Agent from the Philippine Bureau of Plant Industry at Manila. She discussed with Dr. Harry E. Goresline the preservation of fruits and fruit juices and the pickling of various types of vegetables.

Dr. W. B. Davis of the Los Angeles laboratory of the Division visited the Washington office the last week of June where he conferred with Division and Bureau officials, and discussed with members of the Enzyme Section the work in Los Angeles on citrus fruits and lima beans.

The annual short course for farm men and women of Texas, held at College Station on July 11-12, was attended by J. L. Heid upon request of the State Extension Service. Mr. Heid was invited to make an informal talk on preparation of fruits and vegetables for freezing. He also attended the annual meeting of the Texas State Agricultural Experiment Station on July 13. From College Station, Mr. Heid left for an extended trip through the West, and will study methods of interest to the food processing industries in various cities on his route.

The Division was represented at the first annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists in Chicago by R. S. Hollingshead, Dr. A. K. Balls, Dr. Harry E. Goresline, H. W. von Loesecke, Dr. E. A. Beavens, and Dr. Domenic DeFelice. Of a total membership of about 700 over 400 were registered at the meeting. The organization was designed to include people who are primarily and directly interested in the technology of food manufacture and preservation and not solely the specialized scientists such as chemists, bacteriologists, etc. The papers presented, which numbered over 40, were of direct interest to people present and were favorably received by the different audiences.

NAVAL STORES RESEARCH

C. F. Speh attended the meetings of the American Society for Testing Materials in Atlantic City June 25 to 27.

Dr. L. A. Goldblatt attended the meetings of the American Association for Advancement of Science, at Gibson Island, Md., June 18 to 20, and 24 to 26.

Dr. W. D. Pohle of this Division and Dr. L. S. Stuart of the Industrial Farm Products Research Division, visited Dr. Philip B. Price of Johns Hopkins University on July 12, to discuss further studies on the germicidal action of rosin soap.

PROCESSING OF FARM PRODUCTS RESEARCH

Cotton Ginning Investigations

On June 26 and 27 a delegation of Tennessee cotton ginners, cotton farmers, and extension workers visited the U. S. Cotton Ginning Laboratory under the leadership of G. E. Martin, Tennessee Extension Specialist, Knoxville, Tenn. The Laboratory provided the visitors with a two-day program at the Laboratory which included a discussion of cotton ginning subjects, modernized cotton gins, and inspection trips to the Mississippi Delta Branch Experiment Station and representative gins. The staff of the Delta Branch Experiment Station conducted the delegation on a tour of the experimental farms and discussed agronomic problems. Outstanding seed breeders' plantations in the Delta area were also visited.

At 5:30 a.m. on the morning of July 4, as a part of the Departmental farm programs, V. L. Stedronsky, Assoc. Mechanical Engineer, participated in a radio conversation from station WMC at Memphis, Tenn. on modernizing cotton ginning and getting the gins ready for the coming season.

July 4 and 5 were spent by Chas. A. Bennett in New Orleans on official business involving materials required for the coming season and included a brief radio conversation at WWL studio as a part of the Department program fostered by the Agricultural Marketing Service.

On July 8, Stanley Andrews, editor, American Cotton Grower, representing the American Cotton Cooperative Association at New Orleans, visited the U. S. Cotton Ginning Laboratory for the purpose of obtaining information on latest achievements of the Laboratory and a more complete background of the ginning, packaging, and sampling studies which are being undertaken.

F. L. Gerdes, Cotton Technologist, Agricultural Marketing Service, presented a paper entitled "Ginning and Packaging Practices in Relation to Quality and Value of Cotton" on behalf of the U. S. Cotton Ginning Laboratory before the Cotton Research Congress at Waco, Texas, on June 28.

On July 10, 11 and 12, forty-five Missouri cotton farmers, cotton ginners and extension workers paid a three-day visit to the U. S. Cotton Ginning Laboratory at Stoneville where the Laboratory staff provided a broad range program on cotton harvesting, handling, ginning and packaging subjects. The delegation was lead by Dr. J. R. Paulling, Missouri Extension Agronomist, Columbia, Mo., and the program included detailed inspections of the Laboratory, Delta Branch Experiment Station, Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Farm,

Delta and Pine Land Co. operations, and six new all-steel modernized ginning installations located in the Northern Delta areas around Clarksdale, Miss.

Packaging Project:

The new standard density press, weighing 22 tons, was received from the manufacturer at Amite, La. and is now under erection in the pressing laboratory. This new press has three 9 1/2 inch diameter rams, capable of operating under hydraulic working pressures up to two tons per square inch and heavily reinforced by welded bands around the steel pipe casing which encloses the rams. The conventional dimensions of regular cotton gin pressing sizes have been retained in the cotton box and the press box dimensions of this new press, but the upper and lower sills in posts and columns have been strongly reinforced to provide a press of approximately twice the weight of the low density farm bale presses. This press will be subjected to extensive tests during the forthcoming season.

D. Howard Doane of the Doane Agricultural Service, St. Louis, Mo., visited the Laboratory on July 9, and made arrangements with F. L. Gerdes of the cooperating Bureau to provide 100 bales of cotton for packaging and shipping tests from the Robertshaw Plantation at Heathman, Miss. Fifty of these bales will be pressed to standard density in the new press now being installed at the Laboratory, and fifty to gin density at the gin and re-compressed to standard density at the compress. They will also be covered with different kinds of bagging and tied with various types of ties and shipped directly to the mill where observations will be made on conditions of the bales on arrival.

U. S. REGIONAL SOYBEAN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS LA BORATORY, URBANA, ILL.

On June 1 Donald H. Wheeler received his Ph.D. Degree in chemistry from the University of Maryland. Dr. Wheeler is Senior Chemist in charge of oil research at the Soybean Laboratory.

Dr. R. T. Milner, Director, presided at the Symposium on Soybeans at the regional meeting of the American Chemical Society at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., on June 14-15. W. H. Goss, Chemical Engineer, presented a paper entitled "Processing Soybeans to Obtain Oil and Meal," before the Symposium.

Among those attending the annual meeting of the American Society for Testing Materials in Atlantic City, N.J., June 24-28, was Dr. G.H. Brother, Senior Chemist in charge of research on soybean meal.

ALLERGEN INVESTIGATIONS

Dr. E. J. Coulson and J. R. Spies attended the biological meeting at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, N.Y., June 27, and conferred with Dr. Harold A. Abramson with regard to their investigations on the electro-phorepic separation of allergens.

FARM MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT RESEARCH

Recent visitors to the Corn Production Machinery Research Project at Ames, Iowa were: M. C. Shih, a Chinese who is studying farm management in this country; Dr. Ernest Sola, Salta, Argentina, who was interested in corn production methods and machinery; Messrs. Stacey, Graham and Gibbs of the International Harvester Company, who came to observe in operation the experimental cultivator equipment that has been developed on this project; and Profs. E. E. Bracket and C. W. Smith and Mr. Heller of the Agricultural Engineering Department, University of Nebraska, who were interested in experimental methods and equipment.

- W. R. Humphries left Washington, July 16 for the New Jersey Branch Agricultural Experiment Station at Sussex, N.J., where he expects to spend at least two weeks in connection with the field machinery phases of the cooperative grass silage studies.
- G. A. Cumings returned to Washington on July 9 after investigating the status of fertilizer application methods in the Western States. The use of commercial fertilizers is a comparative new practice in the Western States and the need of definite information from both the research and practical standpoints is evident. Suitable fertilizer distributing machines designed for western conditions are urgently needed for use in studying the kind, amount, and placement of fertilizers. The use of fertilizers under different systems of irrigation presents certain fertilizer-placement problems which differ materially from those of the non-irrigated areas of the Eastern States.

DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS ISSUED

Miscellaneous Publication No. 360, "Plans of Farm Buildings for Southern States,"

* * *

PUBLICATIONS APPEARING OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT

BALLS, A. K. Proteolytic enzymes. Ann. Rev. of Biochem. 9:43-64.1940. BROTHER, G. H. and MCKINNEY, L.L. The development of soybean-

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DeEDS, F., WILSON, R. H. (With W. C. Cutting, Stanford Univ. School of Medicine, San Francisco, Calif.) Thyrotropic hormone and fluorine activity. Endocrinology 26(6): 1053-1057. June 1940.

DETWIER, S. B., JR., and MARKLEY, K.S. Laboratory-type molecular or short-path still for vegetable and animal fats and oils. Indus. and Engin. Chem. - Analty. Ed. 12 (6): 348-350, June 1940.

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Properties of soybean oil-solvent mixtures. Indus. and Engin.

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Cereal Chem. 17(3): 279-312, May 1940.

LOTHROP, R.E. Research in the utilization of farm products. Peninsula Hort. Soc. 1939 Trans. - Bul of the State Board of Agr., Dover, Delaware, Ann. Meeting Held at Easton, Md. 29(5): pp. 124-132, Dec. 13-15, 1939.

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MILNER, R. T. Report of the soybean analysis committee - 1939-40.
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MOTTERN, H. H. and NEUBERT, A. M. Canning soft-ripe freestone peaches. Fruit Prod. Jour 19:10): 293-296, June 1940.

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and ROETHE, H.E. Many accidents on the farm take a heavy toll every year. Natl. Grange Monthly 37(7): 3, July 1940.

PULLEY, G.N. and VON LOESECKE, H.W. Drying method changes composition of grapefruit byproducts. Food Indus. 12(6): 63-3; 100-1, June 1940.

ROETHE, H.E. Watch the hay in your barn - it may ignite spontaneously.

Natl. Grange Monthly. 37(6): 3 and 11, June 1940.

SHOLLENBERGER, J. H. The grains of Argentina. Cargill Crop Bul. 15 (3): 34-38, March 1940, also Modern Miller 67 (9): 16-17, March 1940.

SORBER, D. G. Preservation of fruits and vegetables by freezing.
4th Ann. School for Ganning Crop Growers and Fieldmen
Proc. pp. 14-16, Jan. 1940.

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SPEH, C. F. The Naval Stores Research Division and the naval stores industry. Gamble's Intern. Naval Store Year Book for 1939-40, pp. 129-132, 1940.

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(Recent Appaintments - Indefinite or Probationary)

Unskilled Laborer (Raleigh, N.C.) Food Research William M. Lewis Roderick K. Eskew Prin. Chem. Engr. (Wyndmoor, Pa.) East. Reg. Res. Lab. Steward G. Morris Assoc. Chemist ** Charles O. Willits Assoc. Chemist Harry W. Snyder Sr. Opr. Engr. , tt Henry L. Lotz Asst. Agr. Economist (New Orleans, La) South. Reg. Res." Robert B. Evans 11 Jr. Agr. " Rose F. Monachino 11 Mrs. Edna E. Poulson Asst. Clerk Steno. Joseph B. Elrod Agent (C.C.)(Blacksburg, Va.) Rural Elec. Inv. Collaborator (Lafayette, Ind) 11 11 Richard L. Witz. Jr. Operator (Photostat) Hal. P. Letcher Detailed to Office of Information

(Recent Appointments - Temporary)

Shirley H. Edelston Senior Steno.

Henry L. Fowler Mechanic (Northport, Wash.)
Smelter Fumes, """

Mrs.Glendora V. Dayhoff Junior Steno.

Elaine L. Olmstead Junior Steno.

Lydia M. Armstrong Jr. Clerk-Typist

Mrs.Evelyn T. Sandusty Jr. Clerk-Typist

Mrs. Bert K. Keller Jr. Steno (New Orleans, La.)

Indus. Farm Prod.

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Reg. Res. Lab.(Adm.)

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Separations

Grace L. Snodgrass Asst. Clerk-Steno Allergens
Frank J. LaParle Jr. Clerk-Typist(Trans. B.P.I) Bus. Adm. (Bkkpg)
Medford A. McCalip Assoc. Chemist (Baton Rouge, La) Carbohydrate Res.
Mrs. Violet R. Tullock Asst. Clerk-Steno "
Wm. Chauncey Smith Agent(C.C.)(Lincoln, Nebr.) Farm Mech. Equip.
Samuel W. Harding Under Scien. Helper (Logan, Utah) "
Dan H. Swenson Collaborator (Logan, Utah) "
"

Separations (Continued)

Orlando Whitung Howe Asst. Agr. En	gr. (St. Paul, Minn.)Farm Opr. Effic.	
Lois E. Kuebler Jr. Steno (Co	lumbus, Ohio)	
Archie H. Glaves Asst. Agr. En	ngr.(Columbus,Ohio) """	
Robert B. Thompson Agent (C.C.)(Honolulu, Hawaii) Food Res. Div.	
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Harry E. Rhoades Under Scien.	(Urbana, Ill.) Indus. Farm Prod.	
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Mrs. Nancy Carter McNeill Jr. Clerk-T	Typist	
Henry Thomas Lisante Sr. Architect	tural Draftsman Plans & Service	
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Bertha A. Heilman Jr. Clerk-Ty		
Verna W. Walter Jr. Clerk-Ty	pist	

Recent Transfers Within the Bureau (Departmental)

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C. E. Senseman	Ind. Farm Frods. Res.	Off. of Chief(RRL)		
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Laura A. Skinner	11 11 11 11	Allergen Inv.		
Mrs. E. H. Nielsen	11 11 11	Bus. Admin.		
Ruth K. Hoffman	Chem. Engr. Res.	Off. of Chief (RRL)		
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Katherine Rowland	11 11 11	Naval Stores Res.		
J. O. Reed	11 11 11	11 11 11		
Mrs. L. W. Yates	11 11 11	Bus. Admin.		
B. J. Culp		Farm Mech. Equip.		
A. T. Holman	Farm Opr. Effic. Res.	Tarm Cons Educate		

Recent Transfers from Washington, D. C. to the Field

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